

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LENING 01266 241832Z

40

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SAJ-01 NIC-01 /035 W

----- 027371

P R 240630Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0933

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 2 6 6

EO 11652AGDS DECEMBER 24, 1976

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJ: LENINGRAD UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS STAGE MAJOR PUBLIC EXHIBIT

USIA FOR IEE, IBS; MUNICH FOR VOA

REF: A) LENINGRAD 970 B) LENINGRAD A-81 C) LENINGRAD 1098

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FIRST EVER OFFICIALLY SPONSORED
EXHIBIT OF WORKS OF SOME 50 LENINGRAD UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS OPENED AT
LENINGRAD'S I.I. GAZ PALACE OF CULTURE (DVORETS KULTURI IM. I.I.
GAZA, ADRES: PR. STACHEK, 72) AT 11 AM DECEMBER 22. EXHIBIT, FEATURING

APPROXIMATELY 200 PAINTINGS, IS OPEN EACH DAY TO 6 PM, RUNS THROUGH
DECEMBER 25, AND ADMISSION IS FREE. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGEMENTS FELL TO LOT OF CITY
COUNCIL'S MAIN CULTURAL DIRECTORATE, WHICH PLACE OPERATIONAL RE-
SPONSIBILITIES IN HANDS OF LENINGRAD ARTISTS UNION IN COOPERATION
WITH UNOFFICIALS' AD HOC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. DIRECTORATE HEAD
B. M. SKVORTSOV AND UNION DEPUTY HEAD B. S. UGAROV WERE ON
HAND, LOOKING DECIDELY UNCOMFORTABLE IN COMPANY OF THEIR
BEARDED NEW COLLEAGUES. EXHIBIT IS REASONABLY WELL HOUSED IN AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LENING 01266 241832Z

EXHIBIT GALLERY OF A LARGE MODERN BUILDING WITH SUFFICIENT GARDEROBE

AND PUBLIC ENTRANCE SPACE (IF SLIGHTLY CRAMPED VIEWING SPACE) NEAR GIANT KIROV WORKS. PAINTINGS WERE TASTEFULLY HUNG, AND ACCORDING TO SOME VIEWERS, OF A SLIGHTLY HIGHER QUALITY THAN THOSE SHOWN AT MORE SIDE-OPEN MOSCOW OPEN SIR EXHIBIT. FIVE HUNDRED GUEST TICKETS WERE

OFFICIALLY PRINTED AND MILITIA CROWD SUPERVISION WAS ORDERLY AND NOT OPPRESSIVE. IF NOT EXACTLY IN HEART OF DOWNTOWN LENINGRAD, SITE IS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO KIROV WORKS METRO STATION AND THUS EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO GENERAL PUBLIC. ON AUTHORITIES' SIDE LOCATION HAS ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION OF BEING OPPOSITE A LARGE MILITIA HEADQUARTERS.

3. BY OPENING TIME ON SUNDAY AT LEAST 500 PEOPLE HAD BRAVED EARLY-MORNING RAIN, FOG, AND COLD AND WERE LINED UP BEHIND MILITIA BARRIERS AWAITING ENTRANCE, ALERTED TO OPENING VIA LENINGRAD INTELLIGENTSIA GRAPEVINE AND, SOME SAID, VOA (REPORTS OF LATTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT WERE ALLEGED TO BE SOURCE OF COLD FEET SUFFERED BY FOUR PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED

ARTISTS UNION MEMBERS WHO WITHDREW THEIR PAINTINGS). WITHIN A FEW HOURS THIS HAD SWOLLEN TO AT LEAST A THOUSAND. IN A LATE EVENING POST MORTEM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEMSELVES TO CONSOFF AS BEING GENERALLY PLEASED WITH WAY THINGS HAD GONE ON FIRST DAY AND GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC FOR FUTURE. THEY WERE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED AT FAILURE OF ANY AMERICAN PRESS TO ATTEND, BUT SATISFIED THAT WORD WOULD GET OUT VIA FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN PRESS WHO, THEY SAID, HAD BEEN THERE. (FRENCH PRESS IN CONTRAST WITH LOCAL FRENCH CONSULATE GENERAL WHICH DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND. CONSULATES GENERAL IN ADDITION TO US WHICH DID ATTEND WERE FRG AND SWEDEN.) ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ESTIMATE TOTAL FIRST DAY ATTENDANCE AT 2,000, BUT SINCE MILITIA WERE ADMITTING PUBLIC IN LOTS OF APPROXIMATELY 120/HOUR, 1,000-1,500 MAXIMUM WOULD SEEM A MORE LIKELY ESTIMATE.

4. LENINGRAD UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS WERE DETERMINED TO HAVE AN EXHIBIT, BUT TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE MOSCOW SHOW UNPLEASANTRIES. SO FAR, THEY WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE SUCCEEDED, VIA A COMBINATION OF INTRANSIGENCE (CG. THEIR ULTIMATUM LETTER IN REPAIR, MOST OF CONDITIONS OF WHICH, W/EXCEPTION RTC COVERAGE, AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE MET) AND COOPERATION, IE., WORKS OF ARTISTS NOT ACTUALLY LOCALLY RESIDENT WERE EXCLUDED BY LOCAL AGREEMENT, UNOFFICIALS SUBMITTED TO A DISCREET CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LENDING 01266 241832Z

OFFICIAL AND SELF-CENSORSHIP. NOTHING REMOTELY ANTI-SOVIET, PRO-RELIGIOUS, OR EVEN VAGUELY POLITICAL OR PORNOGRAPHIC WAS EXHIBITED, AND REMOVAL (ON RATHER DUBIOUS GROUNDS) BY AUTHORITIES OF FOUR WORKS WAS NOT SERIOUSLY OPPOSED. IN AT LEAST ONE CASE, UNOFFICIALS CONVINCED A LOCAL FIGURE PROMINENT IN THEIR CIRCLES BUT LIKELY TO CAUSE TROUBLE TO STAY AWAY, AT LEAST ON OPENING DAY. MOSCOW COLLECTOR/PATRON D'ART GLAZER, BY CONTRAST, WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE, TAPE-RECORDING SPECTATOR COMMENTS.

5. POST WILL ADVISE ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

6. FOR VOA: ABOVE, WITH EXCEPTION LOCATION AND HOURS OF EXHIBIT,
FOR BACKGROUND ONLY.

NEUBERT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ARTISTS, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LENING01266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740374-0041
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741213/aaaaakhy.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 LENINGRAD 970, 74 LENINGRAD A-81, 74 LENINGRAD 1098
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LENINGRAD UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS STAGE MAJOR PUBLIC EXHIBIT USIA FOR IEE, IBS; MUNICH FOR VOA
TAGS: SCUL, UR
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005